

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 17159 01 OF 02 071922Z

42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 049791

O 071906Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6320

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL BELIZE IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 17159

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, GT, BH, UK, USUN

SUBJECT: BELIZE

REF: (A) STATE 262111; (B) GUATEMALA 6190

SUMMARY: EMBASSY OFFICER SAW FCO DEPARTMENT HEAD PATRICK DUFF NOVEMBER 7 ON BELIZE. DUFF SAID FONSEC CALLAGHAN WOULD SHORTLY SEND INTERIM REPLY TO SECRETARY'S MESSAGE WHILE MINISTERS DISCUSSED HOW BEST TO PROCEED WITH THE GUATEMALANS. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, DUFF SAID HE COULD NOT ENVISAGE A PUBLIC UK-Guatemalan ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE NEXT WEEK OR SO BECAUSE OF BELIZEAN PREMIER PRICE'S EXPOSED POLITICAL POSITION. HMG NEVERTHELESS WILLING TO DISCUSS ALL ISSUES -- ICJ, SECURITY GUARANTEES, AND TERRITORIAL ADJUSTMENTS -- AFTER THE UN VOTE ON THEIR RESOLUTION. DUFF, HOWEVER, SEEMED INTERESTED IN OPTION OF SEEKING INFORMAL AGREEMENT WITH GUATEMALANS ON POSSIBLE AGENDA FOR DISCUSSIONS BEFORE UN VOTE IN HOPES THIS WOULD STAVE OFF GUATEMALAN MILITARY ADVENTURISM. DUFF THEN RAISED POSSIBILITY OF US LOBBYING TO AMEND UN DRAFT RESOLUTION AS DESIRABLE COMPROMISE. END SUMMARY.

1. IN AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 7, EMBASSY OFFICER CALLED ON PATRICK DUFF, HEAD OF FCO WEST INDIAN AND ATLANTIC DEPARTMENT TO DISCUSS BELIZE. OFFICER BEGAN WITH REFERENCE TO SECRETARY'S MESSAGE (REFTEL A) TO FONSEC CALLAGHAN ON SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LONDON 17159 01 OF 02 071922Z

THE SUBJECT AND THEN BRIEFED DUFF ON AMBASSADOR MELOY'S

DISCUSSIONS WITH FONMIN MOLINA AND PRESIDENT LAUGERUD (REFTEL B). DUFF TOOK CAREFUL NOTE OF THE LATTER CONVERSATION, ALTHOUGH HE WAS CLEARLY AMUSED BY LAUGERUD'S EXPLANATION FOR TROOP REINFORCEMENTS IN PETEN.

2. DUFF CHARACTERIZED THE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE AS "ROUGH," BY WHICH HE MEANT STRAIGHTFORWARD, RATHER THAN COARSE. HE SAID CALLAGHAN FOUND THE SECRETARY'S CONCERN USEFUL AND REASSURING, AND WANTS TO REPLY POSITIVELY. THERE ARE PRESENTLY SEVERAL PROPOSED DRAFTS BEFORE CALLAGHAN, EACH OF WHICH CARRIES IMPORTANT POLICY IMPLICATIONS FOR HOW THE BRITISH LOW PROCEED IN THEIR DISPUTE WITH GUATEMALA. DUFF SUSPECTS A FULL ANSWER TO THE SECRETARY WILL BE PRECEDED BY AN ILTERIM RESPONSE, PERHAPS OVER THE WEEKEND, WHILE THE WHOLE BELIZEAN IMBROGLIO IS MULLED OVER AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL.

3. EMBASSY OFFICER ASKED DUFF HOW HE PERSONALLY HAD REACTED TO THE SECRETARY'S SUGGESTIONS. DUFF EMPHASIZED THAT HIS VIEWS WOULD INDEED BE PERSONAL, BUT THROUGHOUT THE DISCUSSION HE CONTINUALLY REFERRED TO A COPY OF THE OPTIONS PAPER THAT IS NOW IN FRONT OF CALLAGHAN, AND THEREFORE, HIS REMARKS REFLECT OFFICIAL THINKING. DUFF SEES A GREAT DEAL OF MERIT IN THE SUBSTANCE OF THE SECRETARY'S SUGGESTIONS WHICH COINCIDE WITH SOME BRITISH THINKING AS WELL. HMG IS ALREADY PREPARED TO DISCUSS WITH THE GUATEMALANS THE ISSUES OF SECURITY GUARANTEES, PORT ACCESS, ETC., AND ALSO PREPARED TO DISCUSS "SEA CONCESSIONS" AROUND AMATIQUE BAY AND THE NEARBY ISLANDS. WHILE THESE SUBJECTS ARE ALL POSSIBLE ITEMS FOR NEGOTIATIONS, DUFF DID NOT SEE HOW THEY COULD BE REFERRED TO IN A PUBLIC UK-GUATEMALAN ANNOUNCEMENT BEFORE THE PASSAGE OF THEIR BELIZEAN RESOLUTION AT THE UN. JUST AS THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT IS A CAPTIVE OF THE HAWKS IN ITS MILITARY, SO IS BRITAIN AT THIS STAGE IMPELLED BY PRICE AND BELIZEAN POLITICS. DUFF SAID THAT THE UK COULD NOT WIN PRICE'S SUPPORT FOR ANY ANNOUNCEMENT EVEN SMACKING OF CONCESSIONS TO THE GUATEMALANS AT A TIME WHEN GUATEMALAN TROOPS WERE MANEUVERING ABOUT THE BELIZEAN FRONTIER. MOREOVER, HE PREDICTED THAT IF PRICE, WHO IS
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 LONDON 17159 01 OF 02 071922Z

NOW ON THE VEPGE OF MORAL VICTORY AT THE UN, WERE TO DEFER PUBLICLY TO THE GUATEMALANS AT THIS STAGE, "THERE WOULD BE RIOTS IN BELIZE," WHICH WOULD LIKELY COST PRICE HIS POLITICAL LIFE. AFTER THE RESOLUTION HAD BEEN PASSED AND THE PUBLIA EXERCISE IN NEW YORK COMPLETED, DUFF SAID THERE WOULD BE A NEW SITUATION IN WHICH THE BRITISH COULD DEFINITELY LEAN ON PRICE. BUT NOT NOW.

4. DUFF THEN SAID THAT HMG HAD NOT REPEAT NOT RULED OUT

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER S/S-O - MR. TANNER.

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 17159 02 OF 02 071929Z

42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 049928

O 071906Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6321

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL BELIZE IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 17159

EXDIS

SUBMITTING THE DISPUTE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE. A SUBMISSION, EVEN FOR AN ADVISORY OPINION, WOULD REQUIRE CAREFUL NEGOTIATION WITH THE GUATEMALANS, AND THE BRITISH WOULD REQUIRE AN ABSOLUTE COMMITMENT FROM THE GUATEMALALS THAT THE ICJ DECISION WOULD BE BINDING. IN THIS CONNEATION, DUFF SAID MOLINA HAD NOT GIVEN UK PERMREP RICHAPS ON OCTOBER 26 A "STRAIGHT ANSWER" WHEN ASKED WHETHER THE GOG WOULD ACCEPT AS FINAL AN ICJ RULING. THE BRITISH ARE THEREFORE SUSPICIOUS THAT GUATEMALAN SUGGESTIONS OF ICJ CONSIDERATION ARE AT LEAST IN PART A TEMPORIZING RUSE. EMBASSY OFFICER ASKED WHETHER PRICE COULD EVENTUALLY BE BROUGHT ALONG ON THE ICJ OPTION. DUFF RESPONDED AFFIRMATIVELY, BUT AGAIN SAID NOT AT THIS STAGE AND CERTAINLY NOT PUBLICLY. ANY AGREEMENT TO SEEK AN ICJ OPINION WOULD HAVE TO COME AFTER THE CLIMAX AT THE UN, AND AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTIONS TO DISCUSS ICJ INTERCESSION IS IMPOSSIBLE NOW. (COMMENT: IN BRIEF, DUFF SAID THAT THE BRITISH WILL GLADLY DISCUSS THE SECRETARY'S SUGGESTIONS AND OTHER ITEMS WITH THE GUATEMALANS AFTER THE PASSAGE OF THEIR RESOLUTION IN NEW

YORK. PRICE, HOWEVER, WOULD NOT GO ALONG WITH ANY PRIOR AGREEMENT, EVEN ONE BOUND IN SECRECY, AND WOULD NOT GO ALONG WITH ANY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT WHICH WOULD SUBTRACT FROM HIS IMPENDING VICTORY AT THE UNITED NATIONS. EMBASSY OFFICER SAID HE THOUGHT THE GUATEMALANS FOUND IT HARD TO SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LONDON 17159 02 OF 02 071929Z

BELIEVE THAT THE BELIZEAN TAIL COULD WAG THE BRITISH DOG SO VIGOROUSLY, TO WHICH DUFF REPEATED HIS RIOTS-IN-THE STREETS COMMENT. DUFF'S REMARKS ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE SECRETARY'S SUGGESTIONS, PARTICULARLY REGARDING THE ICJ, NEVERTHELESS REVEAL A FLEXIBILITY ON THE PART OF THE HMG NOT PREVIOUSLY DETECTED).

5. EMBASSY OFFICER THEN ASKED WHETHER THE BRITISH WERE PLANNING ANY MOLLIFYING STEPS BEFORE THE UN VOTE AND SUGGESTED THAT EVEN A PRIVATE, INFORMAL AGREEMENT WITH THE GUATEMALANS ON A POSSIBLE AGENDA FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION MIGHT SUFFICE TO DAMPEN TEMPERS. DUFF REPLIED THAT HMG IS THINKING OF SENDING A PERSONAL EMISSARY FROM CALLAGHAN TO GUATEMALA, BUT THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT YET DECIDED WHAT THIS EMISSARY MIGHT USEFULLY CONVEY. OFFICER SAID HE WAS CERTAIN THE GUATEMALANS WOULD WELCOME THE GESTURE. DUFF THEN REMARKED THAT EMISSARY COULD BE INSTRUCTED TO EXPLORE AGENDA ITEMS FOR POST-UNGA DISCUSSION, BUT THIS OF COURSE MUST AWAIT A MINISTERIAL DECISION. EMBASSY OFFICER AGAIN STATED THAT HE SUSPECTED GUATEMALANS WOULD FIND AN EMISSARY ON AN EXPLORATORY EXPEDITION A VERY ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT.

6. EMBASSY OFFICER ASKED DUFF HOW HMG EXPECTED US TO VOTE ON THE TWO BELIZEAN RESOLUTIONS. DUFF RESPONDED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD BE DELIGHTED WITH A POSITIVE US VOTE ON THEIR RESOLUTION BUT SYMPATHIZED WITH OUR SITUATION. THE FCO, HE SAID, EXPECTED THE US WOULD ABSTAIN ON BOTH RESOLUTIONS. OFFICER ANSWERED THAT A VOTING DECISION HAD NOT YET BEEN REACHED IN WASHINGTON BUT THAT THE EXPECTATION OF THE FCO WAS REASONABLE, PARTICULARLY IF THE US IS TO PRESERVE ITS CREDIBILITY WITH BOTH GOVERNMENTS IN FUTURE DISCUSSIONS. DUFF ACCEPTED THE POINT AND CONCEDED THAT A US ABSTENTION MIGHT EVEN BE DESIRABLE. EVEN MORE DESIRABLE, HE SAID, WOULD BE A US EFFORT TO LOBBY FOR CHANGES IN THE PRESENT PRO-BELIZE DRAFT RESOLUTION. OBVIOUSLY TOYING WITH AN IDEA, DUFF ASKED WHETHER THE US WOULD BE WILLING TO SPEAK WITH THE CARIBBEAN CO-SPONSORS OF THE RESOLUTION IN AN EFFORT TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION, SPECIFICALLY TO DELETE PARAGRAPH FIVE WHICH THE GUATEMALANS FIND SO OBNOXIOUS. HE SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 LONDON 17159 02 OF 02 071929Z

SAID USUN MIGHT START WITH THE GUYANESE "WHO ARE REASON-
ABLE PEOPLE." DUFF EXPLAINED THAT THE UK HAD EXPENDED
ITS CAPITAL IN NEGOTIATING WITH THE CO-SPONSORS
DURING THE DRAFTING SESSIONS AND NOW COULD NOT GO BACK
ON ITS EARLIER AGREEMENT. BUT, HE ADDED, THE UK WOULD
HAVE NO OBJECTION TO THE US LOBBYING TO AMEND THE
RESOLUTION, AND WOULD EVEN PRIVATELY GREET OUR LEADERSHIP.
OFFICER RESPONDED THAT SUCH A US EFFORT AT THIS JUNCTURE
MIGHT PROVE IMPRACTICAL AND IMPOSSIBLE IN VIEW OF THE
TIME LIMITS, BUT THAT DUFF'S SUGGESTION WOULD BE
IMMEDIATELY CABLED TO WASHINGTON.

RICHARDSON

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER S/S-O - MR. TANNER.

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, PERSONAL OPINION, UNGA RESOLUTIONS, BOUNDARY CLAIMS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LONDON17159
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750388-0235
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751164/aaaacfdw.tel
Line Count: 242
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 262111, 75 GUATEMALA 6190
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BELIZE
TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, GT, BH, UK, USUN NEW YORK, UNGA, (DUFF, PATRICK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006